



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

RARE DISEASES DAY

- WHEREAS: There are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare, each affecting fewer than 200,000 individuals in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health; and
- WHEREAS: Although each disease may affect only a small number of people, rare diseases as a group affect almost 30 million Americans. Nearly one in ten Americans are affected by rare diseases, including thousands of Georgia citizens; and
- WHEREAS: Rare diseases are serious and may cause debilitating conditions, thereby having a significant impact on the lives of those affected. These individuals and their families may often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding a medical expert, and limited access to ancillary services; and
- WHEREAS: To date, nearly 450 orphan drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases, yet millions of Americans with rare diseases have no approved treatment specific to their disease; and
- WHEREAS: While the general public is familiar with some rare diseases such as "Lou Gehrig's disease," many patients and families affected by less widely known rare diseases bear a larger share of the burden in raising public awareness to support the search for treatments; and
- WHEREAS: The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) is organizing a nationwide observance of Rare Diseases Day on February 28, 2018; and
- WHEREAS: On Rare Disease Day, organizations including NORD, as well as thousands of patients, caregivers, medical professionals, researchers, companies developing orphan products to treat people with rare diseases, and others will participate in this day of observance; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 28, 2018, as RARE DISEASES DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 16th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.




GOVERNOR

ATTEST


CHIEF OF STAFF